

12/08/2009

WDFW Commissioners,

Thank you for your attention when I spoke at the Dec 5 meeting in Olympia. This letter is a follow up to those remarks and more specifically to the letter you received from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. It is hard to know where to begin. First, those who formulate rules and regulations can only do so based on the information provided to them. Second, I have been made aware that a meeting was held

in Oct. between the Regional director, Mr. Hebner, program staff and headquarters staff. NOAA asked for said meeting in Sept. In a time of scarce revenue it would have been prudent for someone at WDFW to research the allegations contained in the letter from Barry A. Thom. Specifically whether the implied incident even took place? No one checked into whether or not King 5 News documented anything? Had they done so, all of this misplaced concern would never have taken place. I would think a professional organization such as KING 5 would not look kindly upon a Federal agency citing nonexistent footage as impetus for instigating a change in state regulations that effect a user group? Especially because the regulation changes ask for by NOAA would expend large amounts of revenue and personnel hours on a subject that has been well taken care of during the stakeholder meetings over a period of a year and a half and approved by the commission and signed by the governor. Any concerns by NOAA should have been addressed at those meetings as they had representation there.

I would ask that any further meetings or correspondence between any agencies, commissions and/or Federal agencies include someone with intimate knowledge of the subject being discussed. I am available, as are many others in the mining community, to consult with the commission at any meeting including subcommittee meetings. A great deal of misunderstanding could be avoided as would expended resources (revenue) by a simple phone call or face to face information exchange.

The concerns implied by NOAA in their letter are nonexistent, as is the reality of this nonexistent "incident"; all allegations in said letter are covered by rules contained in the Gold and Fish book. There was no incident; all persons at that site were well within the perimeters of the rules, rules that were formulated with direct input from NOAA through their representative at the stakeholder meetings. There were no, repeat NO dredgers present, NO documentation by KING 5 exists and NO concentrated mining activity occurred. Entirely too much effort has already been expended on the effort by NOAA to influence our regulations in a negative manner, I would ask first as a stakeholder, second as a taxpayer and third as a prospector, for you to kindly resist said effort.

Thank you for your time and if a meeting does occur between Mr. Steve Landino and anyone associated with WDFW, I would petition for prior notification and the right to attend.

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